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JOURNAL
OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION
OF THE
NEW JERUSALEM CHURCH.

BOSTON, Thursday, April 13, 1865.

The Massachusetts Association of the New Church met in the Temple of the Boston Society, in Bowdoin Street, at 10 o'clock, A.M.

The Presiding Minister, Rev. Thomas Worcester, D.D., called the meeting to order, the Delegates presented their credentials, and the following Ministers and Delegates were reported as the acting members of the meeting.

BOSTON.—Rev. Thomas Worcester, D.D., *Pastor*; Rev. James Reed, *Assistant Minister*; and Messrs. Theophilus Parsons; Joseph M. Marsh, Francis Phelps, Benjamin Worcester, Sampson Reed, Wm. J. Parsons, David L. Webster, Theodore Baker, Joseph Andrews, Abraham T. Lowe, Frederic A. Hawley, Lemuel Little, Joseph Worcester, John G. Webster, and Edwin H. Abbot, *Delegates*.

BRIDGEWATER.—Rev. T. B. Hayward, *Minister*; and Messrs. Joseph A. Hyde, Fisher A. Sprague, Lewis G. Lowe, Joel Shedd, and Charles Hayward, *Delegates*.

ABINGTON.—Rev. Joseph Pettee, *Pastor*; and Messrs. Benjamin Hobart, Baxter Cobb, Lucius Faxon, Edward W. Cobb, L. Holbrook, and Henry Dunham, jr., *Delegates*.

NORTH BRIDGEWATER.—Messrs. Henry French, Lewis Fellows, Rufus C. Kimball, Benjamin Goddard, and John Goddard, *Delegates*.

EAST BRIDGEWATER.—Rev. T. O. Paine, *Pastor*; and Messrs. Isaac Keith, Lewis Ryder, George Mitchell, and Seth Bryant, *Delegates*.

YARMOUTH.—Rev. John P. Perry, *Pastor*; and Messrs. Chauncey Conant, Evander D. Fisher, and Benjamin Hallett 2d, *Delegates*.

LOWELL.—Messrs. B. S. Hale and Robert Shepherd, *Delegates*.

FOXBOROUGH AND MANSFIELD.—Mr. Nathaniel Cook, *Delegate*.

SPRINGFIELD.—Messrs. Nathan Foster and Luke Bemis, *Delegates*.

FALL RIVER.—Mr. John Westall, *Delegate*.

BROOKLINE.—Messrs. Wm. A. Wellman, Abraham L. Cutler, and Wm. D. Philbrick, *Delegates*.

TAUNTON.—Messrs. John Hunt, Julius A. Thompson, and H. B. King, *Delegates*.

SALEM.—Messrs. A. H. Hardy, H. P. Nichols, and Dr. S. M. Cate, *Delegates*.

Voted, On motion of Rev. Mr. Reed, that Rev. Joshua T. Eaton, and Rev.

Edward C. Mitchell, and Messrs. Samuel M. Warren, and George S. Hilton, Licentiates, and all other visiting members of the New Church, be invited to take seats with the Association, and to participate in its deliberations.

The societies were then called upon, and Reports were presented and read from the societies in Boston, Bridgewater, Abington, North Bridgewater, East Bridgewater, Yarmouth, Lowell, Foxborough and Mansfield, Brookline, Taunton, Salem, and Fall River. The Report of the Springfield Society was handed in at a later hour.

Rev. Mr. Mitchell, of Providence, gave some information respecting the society in Pawtucket, stating that he had been preaching there on sabbath afternoons since December last, and that the attendance and interest were much increased.

On motion of Professor Parsons, a Committee was appointed to prepare Resolutions in relation to the present state of the country, to report this afternoon. Messrs. T. Parsons, Samuel M. Warren, and Rev. James Reed were made this Committee.

Rev. Mr. Reed gave notice that the lecturer was understood to be in ill health out of the city, and proposed that the afternoon be devoted to the consideration of the subject of the resolutions above assigned.

It was also *Voted*, That Mr. Edwin H. Abbot as lecturer, and Dr. S. M. Cate as substitute, be continued to lecture before the Association at the next meeting.

Mr. Benjamin Worcester presented and read the Report of the Missionary and Colportage Committee, which was accepted.

The same gentleman also read the Report of Rev. Mr. Evans, the Missionary and Colporter.

Rev. Mr. Reed presented and read the Report of the Committee on Religious Education, which was accepted.

The hour for the religious services (12 o'clock) having arrived, a recess was taken until two o'clock; and Rev. Thomas Worcester officiated at public worship, and delivered a discourse from Matt. v. 4.

Afternoon session, 2 o'clock.

The Association came to order, and the roll was called.

On motion of Professor Parsons, it was *Voted* unanimously, that Rev. Mr. Worcester be requested to furnish a copy of the discourse delivered before this Association to-day, for publication in *The New Jerusalem Magazine*; and that extra copies be published in pamphlet form for distribution.

Professor Parsons, for the Committee raised this morning to present patriotic resolutions, offered the following. Messrs. John Westall, Samuel M. Warren, James E. Mills, Joshua O. Colburn, Rev. James Reed, Professor Theophilus Parsons, and Rev. Edward C. Mitchell spoke upon these resolutions. The resolutions were then adopted unanimously.

Resolved, That this Association recognizes with reverence and gratitude the Divine mercy which now permits the hope that the end of rebellion is near, that the unity of our nation will be preserved, slavery extinguished, and the Constitution vindicated and established.

Resolved, That this war, as it is the greatest ever waged on earth, if it be measured by the extent of its territorial range, or the number of armed men actually engaged, so it is the greatest, if it be measured by the magnitude of the principles involved, and by the good which may be hoped from it.

Resolved, That by this victory of free self-government, it is proved for the whole world and for all time, that with such government a great nation may resist the fiercest assaults and be delivered from the greatest perils, and put forth, and organize, and use efficiently the national resources and the national

strength, and preserve through all the violence of conflict the peace and order of the community.

Resolved, That we see in this certain and now indisputable sufficiency of free self-government for all the needs of war or peace, an assurance given to all nations that a new political era is opening to mankind, and has already begun.

Resolved, That this era, for which the whole past with all its successively advancing modes and forms of government has been preparing; for which a new continent was needed, and was found to be its earliest home; for which a new nation was to exist, which, born but a few generations ago, has already grown into greatness,—that this new era is to be one of free self-government in the fear of the Lord, as the consummation of all political institutions.

Resolved, That this means the government of men by law; the unrestrained power of a nation to make its law an expression and an instrument of right, and freely to impose upon itself the obligations of law. And that it does not mean the absence or weakness of government; it does not mean lawlessness; it does not mean that freedom can be corrupted into license, and not perish; it does not mean that any man, or any men, or any nation, can surrender themselves to their own lusts and caprices, without destruction.

Resolved, That we believe with hope and gladness, that when society is constructed upon the principles of this new era, it will be founded upon usefulness; for then, more than ever before, it will be guided and governed by Him whose infinite happiness is one with His infinite usefulness. Therefore usefulness will be the measure of honor, of position, and of reward; and the falsity that industry is discreditable, and that he who is exempt from the necessity of labor is under no obligation to be useful to his fellow-men,—a falsity which was once universal and is now too prevalent, and was always fostered by slavery,—will wholly disappear.

Resolved, That while we reverently acknowledge that our Father has, apparently, made this country the leader of the nations in this consummating era, we need to know and to avoid the sin of pride and the folly of boasting; and to keep alive a just sense of our manifold deficiencies, and of the great responsibility resting upon us.

Resolved, That it belongs especially to the members of the New Church never to forget, and earnestly to impress upon themselves and others the certainty, that while the will of the Lord must be accomplished in the establishment of true self-government among men, any nation, our own or any other, which does not learn, and deplore, and amend its wrong doings, and labor earnestly to know and to do its whole duty, must be taught its duty by the scourge of calamity; and if that cannot be, must perish, and give way to another more willing to become an instrument of the love of God for His children.

The Resolutions were then passed back to the Committee, for amendment in some particulars suggested in the addresses.

The Secretary was ordered to procure the printing of the Sermon and the Resolution in one of the Boston public papers; and the Secretary and Committee were directed to give such circulation to the resolutions as they judged proper.

Ordered, That a copy of the Sermon and Resolutions be sent to the President of the United States, to the Heads of the Departments of the national government, to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, to the Governor of Massachusetts, and to the Senators of Massachusetts in Congress.

The Treasurer's Report was read and accepted.

As there was some difficulty in ascertaining which of the Societies should receive the Association in rotation at its next meeting, the Secretary was

directed to ascertain the fact, and give due notice of the same; and it was ordered that when the Association adjourns, it adjourn to meet at said place, on Thursday, October 5, 1865.

After signing the 158th Selection, the Association adjourned.

T. B. HAYWARD, *Secretary.*

REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

Report of the Boston Society.—Rev. THOMAS WORCESTER, D. D., *Pastor.*—
Rev. JAMES REED, *Assistant Minister.*

Since the last meeting of the Association, the following persons have been confirmed, and become members of the Society: viz., William Shale, Sarah Ann Shale, Alice Ticknor, Margaret D. Trowbridge, Alice Worcester Parsons, Amelia Hobart Dunbar, Abby Jane Shedd, Mary Hill, Sophronia Ames, Irena Warren, Eliza Farwell Howes, Sarah Aplin, Anna C. P. Hammatt, and Augusta C. Hammersberg.

Mrs. Margaret Ann Braser has been confirmed, but has not joined the society.

Ellen E. Shedd has had her connection transferred from the Bridgewater to the Boston Society. The Pastor and Assistant Minister have officiated at 20 baptisms and 4 marriages. Three members of the Society have died; viz., Nancy B. Worcester, Allen J. Washburn, and George C. Cushman.

Mrs. Worcester, formerly Miss Carter (sister of Mr. T. H. Carter), joined the society in Jan. 1832, and had, consequently, been a member for the term of 33 years. At the time of her death she was a resident of Lancaster, her native place. She was well known to the older members of our church,—an intelligent and affectionate receiver of the Heavenly Doctrines,—faithful and exemplary in all her relations of life, and much respected and beloved by all her acquaintance, both in the church and beyond its limits. The funeral services, performed in the Unitarian Church in Lancaster by our Assistant Minister, were largely attended by the residents of the town; and her death was alluded to by Mr. Bartol, the Unitarian clergyman, on the following sabbath.

Mr. Washburn has been a member of our society less than four years, though he has been a reader and receiver of the Doctrines of the New Church for a much longer period. His business was that of a florist and seedsman. For a number of years he resided in Dorchester, but at the time of his death he was a resident of Quincy. The sustaining power and influence of the truths of the New Church, to which he was affectionately devoted, were particularly visible in his last sickness and his death; so that, instead of being an occasion of sadness, he became the centre of light, comfort, and consolation to his household.

Mr. Cushman had been a member of our society about six years. He was but little known to the members generally, having resided a large part of the time in North Bridgewater, and been associated with the church in that place. At the time of his death he was a resident of Selin's Grove, Penn., where he has left a wife and infant daughter. Mrs. Cushman writes, "My husband entered the spiritual world on the 13th February, after patiently enduring almost indescribable suffering for five months. At my request the New Church funeral service was read by a Lutheran clergyman. If my little daughter is spared to me I shall spare no effort to have her instructed in the doctrines of

the New Church. But I am a babe myself in knowledge, and have very much to learn before I shall feel fitted to teach her. If my husband had lived, I should have gone to North Bridgewater this coming summer, and there had the child baptized. It may be a long time before an opportunity offers now; but I believe that a way will be opened to me at the proper time, and, perhaps, when I least expect it."

There have been quite a number of other deaths of those who, though not members of the society, stood in near relations to it. Among them may be mentioned that of Frederick H. Webster, son of Mr. John G. Webster, a very estimable young man, lieutenant in the 54th (colored) regiment. Having fought bravely, and escaped the perils of battle, he died not long after of the typhoid fever, at the hospital at Beaufort, S. C. The funeral services were performed at our church in Boston, and were very fully attended by his friends, both in the church and the community.

It was stated in our last Report that instead of our usual meetings on Sunday afternoon, the society had under consideration the plan of holding meetings on sabbath evening. This plan has been carried into operation. We have held nineteen evening meetings, at which our Assistant Minister has delivered a series of elementary discourses on the doctrines of the church. By a vote of the society these meetings have been advertised in the Saturday evening papers; and they have been quite fully attended by strangers, in connection with a portion of our own congregation. They have been always listened to with the most marked attention, and frequent expressions of satisfaction have been heard from those outside of the New Church. We believe that the impression prevails with those of our society who have heard them, that they have been very useful, and that what was regarded as an experiment has answered their most sanguine expectations.

Our organ, which was purchased when the church was built, twenty years since, has become so much out of repair, and, being crowded into an insufficient space, is reached with so much difficulty, if indeed it could be done at all, as it is situated, that it has been deemed expedient, if not indispensable, to procure a new one. A sum has been raised by subscription for this purpose, and Messrs. E. & G. G. Hook have been employed to build a large organ of the best quality. It is to be completed and set up in the church by the first of November next. As the space allotted to the old one will be entirely insufficient for this, it becomes necessary to locate it in the west gallery, as the only available place. While the change of place will be much regretted by some reasons, it will have some important advantages, especially as regards the location of the choir in connection with the instrument.

The Boston New Church Ladies' Sewing Circle has continued to hold weekly meetings at the rooms in Bromfield Street since October last, the meetings having been suspended during the summer months. Notwithstanding the very inclement weather on some of the days on which they have met, the average attendance has been twenty-nine, the largest number at any one meeting being forty-eight. They have distributed in all two hundred and sixty-five articles, which have mostly passed through the hands of the Sanitary Commission.

A contribution was taken up at church for the purchase of the materials, which, with sums contributed at other times, has been sufficient for the purpose, amounting, with the cash on hand last fall, to about \$585. We are sure that all the gentlemen who have had an opportunity of observing the operations of the Ladies' Sewing Circle, and the kindly, affectionate, social sphere which has prevailed in it, will be ready to endorse the closing words of their Secretary's report. "Our statistics," she says, "give us reason to think that we have accomplished in some degree our first object,—to aid those who suffer from the war or its consequences. No one who listens to the accom-

paniment of voices, keeping time to the sewing machines, will doubt that the second object, to promote social intercourse, is at least equally well answered. We have gladly welcomed some new members to our ranks, especially from among the younger ladies of the society; and those of us who have been longest together find ourselves drawn with ever stronger interest towards our common work, and with more kindly feeling toward each other."

The attendance at our sabbath school has been about the same as that of the last year, and it has been conducted much as heretofore, under the charge of a superintendent and twelve teachers; the Assistant Minister usually opening the school, and giving brief general instruction in reference to the historical parts of the Scriptures.

Our meetings have been uniformly well attended the past year, and the call for seats and pews was never so great, since the church was erected, as at the present time. It is now difficult to obtain a whole pew on the floor of the church. The congregation was counted on the last sabbath in March and the first sabbath in April, the latter being the day of our quarterly meeting. The number attending church on the last Sunday in March was four hundred and seventy-seven, and on the first Sunday in April, five hundred and thirty-six; and the attendance at the Communion in the afternoon three hundred and seven. Since the last meeting of the Association, the society has contributed \$150 to its funds.

Report of the Bridgewater Society.—REV. T. B. HAYWARD, Minister.

There has been no addition to this society since the last meeting of the Association. One of our members, Mr. Asa P. Keith, has been removed to the spiritual world. Miss Ellen E. Shedd has withdrawn for the purpose of joining the Boston Society. Our sabbath school consists of about *thirty* scholars, has four teachers, and has been continued through the winter season. A Doctrinal Class has been taught by Rev. Mr. Hayward, who has supplied the pulpit during the past year. Social meetings have been held at private houses on sabbath evenings during the winter months, for reading the writings of Swedenborg, which have proved highly interesting and instructive. Our Society numbers *fifty* members.

Report of the Abington Society.—REV. JOSEPH PETTEE, Pastor.

Our society now numbers *eighty* members. Only one has been added to the society within the last year; viz., Mr. John Hyslop. Public worship has been regular and constant, and has been, with a few exceptions, conducted by our pastor, Rev. Joseph Pettee. The usual attendance is from *one hundred to one hundred and fifty*. The Sacrament of the Holy Supper has been administered quarterly. On each of the two pleasant sabbaths there were *fifty* present. On the other two sabbaths, which were stormy, there were only present on one of them *thirty-one*, and on the other *thirty-nine*.

The sabbath school continues about the same as usual, numbering about *fifty* pupils. These are divided into five classes, under the care of a superintendent and four teachers. According to our custom, the school began on the first of May last, and continued to the first of November; at which time the afternoon meetings for the study of the Doctrines of the Church were commenced, and have continued through the winter. These meetings are very useful and interesting. The work on Heaven and Hell is the one we are now using.

A course of entertainments, consisting of lectures, assemblies, and dramatic performances, was arranged for the winter term. These have been generally well attended, and we trust useful, each in its peculiar way. Besides an

interesting lecture from one of our members, Mr. B. E. Faxon, we were favored with excellent ones by Mr. Westall, of Fall River, Mr. Abbott, of Boston, and Mr. John Goddard, of North Bridgewater. We can but hope to be as highly favored again.

During the past year our pastor has baptized *five* persons, and *seven* have been confirmed. He has attended *nine* funerals and *two* marriages.

We have for the last four years been in the habit of sending annual communications in behalf of the society to all of its absent members; and those who reply to these communications seem to be very much gratified with being thus remembered every year. The reading of these letters has become a very pleasant exercise in our annual church meeting. There are about *twenty* of our members who now reside in other towns and States.

Report of the North Bridgewater Society.—REV. WARREN GODDARD, *Pastor*.

Our pastor has preached regularly, with one exception, since the second sabbath in November, which was the last sabbath of his vacation. He has officiated at *twelve* baptisms, *five* marriages, and *eight* funerals. Since the meeting of the Association in October last, *two* persons have joined the society, viz., Mr. David Whittemore and Mrs. Urania Whittemore. The exercises of our Doctrinal Class, on account of the failure of the health of the pastor, are now conducted by Capt. Henry French. The class meets at two o'clock on sabbath afternoon, in the vestry. Its meetings are quite fully attended by the younger members, and there is a manifest desire to learn the doctrines. Our sabbath school continues to be held immediately after the morning service; it numbers about *eighteen* teachers, and *one hundred* scholars. The ladies of our society have held regular meetings once a fortnight, for sewing, and have employed their time for the benefit of the soldiers. We have had a series of entertainments during the winter, consisting of assemblies, lectures, a dramatic exhibition, and social parties. They have been well attended, and all have appeared to enjoy them. The society contributes *twenty-one dollars and seventy-five cents* for the uses of the Association.

Report of the East Bridgewater Society.—REV. T. O. PAINE, *Pastor*.

Since the last meeting of the Association, Miss Jane Mary Bryant has been confirmed, and has joined our society. Our pastor has officiated at *three* marriages, and at *two* baptisms. Our Sunday school is continued through the entire year, holding its meetings immediately after the morning service. The school appears to be in a prosperous condition, and we think the interest is increasing. It numbers *five* teachers, and from *forty* to *fifty* scholars. We continue our afternoon meetings for doctrinal instruction: the attendance is small, and for that reason we have thought of giving them up; but we find that those who attend are much attached to them, and are not willing to discontinue them. We have monthly church meetings for business and conversation, on the evening of the first sabbath in each month.

Report of the Yarmouth Society.—REV. JOHN P. PERRY, *Pastor*.

Since our last report to the Association, there have been *two* persons removed to the spiritual world, who were worshippers with our society. Mr. Edward W. Crocker, died March 1, 1865, aged 66 years and 8 months. He has been a constant attendant at our meetings for many years. December 8, 1864, he was baptized and confirmed at his own dwelling-house by our pastor.

The disease which terminated Mr. Crocker's earthly life was consumption. He was very quiet in his sickness, and manifested a desire that the Lord's will should be done. Mr. Charles Sears' death took place March 4, 1865. His age was 75 years and 8 months. Mr. Sears has attended our meetings for worship very constantly for the last few years, and expressed his belief in the New Church doctrines to a considerable extent. The funeral services of both the above were performed by Rev. Joseph Pettee, of Abington. Mr. Chauncey Conant, our reader, read the funeral service from the book of worship at the funeral of Mr. Asa Finney, at Centreville, in the town of Barnstable, December 8, 1864. Our pastor was invited to perform the services, but was away from home at the time. There has been no addition to our society, and no marriages.

Our pastor's eyes continue in a poor state, and he has not been able to preach. Our services on the sabbath for worship have been conducted by our reader, Mr. Conant, a part of the time. Since December 25, 1864, Rev. Joshua Trowbridge Eaton has been employed by our pastor to supply his place on the sabbath, with the exception of five sabbaths, when he was absent on account of his wife's sickness and death. April 2d, our Sunday evening meetings were resumed again. Our sabbath school contains about the same number of scholars as when last reported. The society contributes *ten* dollars for the uses of the Association.

Report of the Lowell Society.

Since our last report few changes in our society have occurred. Our meetings upon the sabbath have been holden with regularity, and early in each quarter we have enjoyed the privilege of the Sacrament, which has been administered uniformly by Rev. T. B. Hayward. The number of members, as of the attendance upon the sabbath, continues about the same from year to year. The Sunday school for children is continued as heretofore. Our society changes much from the transient nature of our population, giving to us new associates, but taking those whose acquaintance we have much enjoyed, and who, we had hoped, might remain with us; yet we are assured that they carry with them those truths which so much delight us, and which will produce impressions profitable to those among whom they choose for themselves a new home. It seems not inappropriate that we should at this time express our recognition of the infinite mercy of our Divine Father, in the consummation of one of the greatest obstacles to the extension of religious truths and national prosperity which we can conceive. May we never cease to be thankful to Him, that in our sore trouble He hath appointed to us a deliverer, who has humbly given the glory and honor to our Father in Heaven.

MOSES W. KIDDER, *Secretary.*

Report of the Foxborough and Mansfield Society.

This society numbers *ten* members. There have been no additions or removals since our last report to the Association. Our meetings for worship on sabbath mornings have been held during the past year at the house of Mr. Mann, in Mansfield, being conducted by our leader, Mr. S. P. Hodges. In September last we had the pleasure of a visit from the Rev. George F. Stearns, who spent a sabbath with us, and preached a discourse from these words: "Blessed be the Lord: for he hath showed me his marvellous kindness in a strong city."—Psalm xxxi. 21.

The meeting was held at the house of Mr. S. P. Hodges in Foxborough, and was attended by about thirty persons, several of whom had not heretofore

attended our meetings. In the afternoon the Sacrament of the Holy Supper was administered to *eleven* communicants. We are happy to inform the Association, that we expect to have regular preaching, and the Sacraments administered at the stated times usual in other societies, during the coming year. We have rented a hall, in which we shall hereafter hold our meetings, and have made arrangements with the Rev. George F. Stearns to preach to us for one year. The society contributes *three* dollars for the use of the Association.

Respectfully submitted in behalf of the society.

NATHANIEL COOK, *Clerk.*

Report of the Fall River Society.

Our meetings have been held regularly since our last report. The Rev. Mr. Pettee preached for us in October, January, and April, and administered the Sacraments of Baptism and the Holy Supper. It gives us great pleasure in stating that we have made arrangements with Mr. Pettee to visit us quarterly during the year. Mary and Ellen Westall have become members of this society. The present number of members is *twenty-one*, four of whom reside out of the city. There have been three baptisms; an infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cartmel, and two infant sons of Mr. and Mrs. Wood. Mr. Thomas Almy has conducted our services during the greater part of the past three months, in consequence of the state of the health of our leader. We have had eight social meetings this season, at three of which addresses were read by young persons who attend our meetings. Rev. Mr. Mitchell, of Providence, read an Address on Amusements, at the first, in January. On Thanksgiving Day we had an Address from our leader in the morning, and a social tea party in the evening.

Report of the Springfield Society.

The Springfield Society report that they still live, have much to enjoy and to be thankful for to Him who gives the sabbath and the sanctuary.

Sabbath services are now held at the Studio. Their efforts to support these services regularly every week have been successful, and they now hope the time is not far distant when the quarterly administration of the holy Sacraments will also be granted them. During the year ending March 31, 1865, the attendance has averaged about twenty. The Holy Supper has been administered but once. There have been no baptisms. The number of members is the same as at last report.

Mr. Jonathan Ferre, who died the past winter at Agawam, was the oldest receiver of the New Church doctrines in this region. Bodily infirmities have prevented his worshipping with us, but those of us who have spent hours with him, have done so with profit to themselves.

Messrs. L. Bemis, and N. Foster, are appointed delegates to this meeting of the Association.

Respectfully,

N. FOSTER, *Secretary.*

Report of the Taunton Society.

Within the past six months *three* have been added to our society, making our present number *fourteen*. Rev. Mr. Pettee visited us on the second sabbath in January, and administered the Holy Supper. Dr. and Mrs. Julius Thompson were at that time confirmed, and united with the society. Mr.

Pettee preached, in the morning and evening, two effective discourses. Rev. Eleazar Smith has also preached once for us this winter. Rev. Mr. Pettee also attended the funeral of two children of Mr. Horatio B. King, who were suddenly removed to the spiritual world. Our usual Christmas Eve Festival was this year held in our place of worship, and was made a very pleasant occasion. Our meetings for worship on sabbath mornings have been regularly sustained. The attendance, though small, has been as large as at any previous winter. We feel the need of the more frequent visits of a minister, but deem it a great privilege to unite as we can in the worship of the Lord in His Divine Humanity. Our sabbath school languishes at present, but we hope soon to revive it. One of our most active teachers in the school has for some time past been engaged in the work of ministering to our soldiers in a Southern hospital.

JOHN HUNT,
JULIUS THOMPSON, } *Delegates.*
H. B. KING,

Report of the Brookline Society.—Mr. SAMUEL M. WARREN, Minister.

Since the last meeting of the Association there have been *five* persons added to our society; namely, Miss Rachel A. Cushing, Miss Ellen M. Chandler, Miss Sarah Woodward, Miss Lucy S. Davis, and Miss Sarah C. Rogers, making our present number *twenty-nine*. *One* adult and *one* infant have been baptized at our meetings for public worship. The sabbath school has been regularly conducted by the minister, and is in a flourishing condition, the number of scholars averaging about *twenty-five*. The attendance upon public worship does not vary much from *one hundred* persons. Our minister, Mr. Warren, commenced his labors with us on the first of December last, and they have been entirely acceptable and profitable to the society. He has officiated at the funeral of *one* adult and *two* children during the time. The society have voted *ten* dollars to the uses of the Association.

D. H. ROGERS, *Clerk to the Society.*

Report of the Salem Society.—Mr. GEORGE S. HILTON, Minister.

This society secured the services of Mr. George S. Hilton last October, since which time the attendance upon our public meetings seems to be on the increase. He has officiated at *two* funerals. The sabbath school is held regularly, and the average attendance through the winter has been from *eight* to *nine*. The second sabbaths in January and April Rev. Mr. Hayward preached, and administered the Sacrament of the Holy Supper; baptized *two* adults and *three* children; confirmed *five*, and *three* were admitted to the society; making our present number *sixteen*.

A. H. HARDY, *Secretary.*

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES.

Report of the Missionary and Colportage Committee.

The Committee present the report of Rev. Mr. Evans, whose labors constitute the action of the Association in the missionary and colportage field during the past season. It will be seen that Mr. Evans has gone over a good deal of ground, and, doubtless, accomplished much good in his labors. Owing to his present illness, the Committee have had no recent opportunity of conferring with him, and have nothing to present beyond his report. It will be remembered that Mr. Evans is engaged at the rate of \$450 for six months' service. Of the six months he has already labored a little more than four; hence more than two-thirds of his salary is already earned. A statement of his accounts with the Association is herewith appended.

For the Committee,
BENJ. WORCESTER, *Secretary*.

Report of Rev. W. F. Evans, Missionary and Colporter.

I commenced my labors as Missionary and Colporter of the Massachusetts Association of the New Church on the first of October last. During this time I have visited *five* towns in Vermont, *fourteen* in New Hampshire, and *thirty-three* in Massachusetts; in all, *fifty-two* towns. I have preached and lectured *six* times. Much of my labor has been visiting from house to house. I have called upon all who were in any degree interested in the doctrines of the New Jerusalem, and have had conversation with them, aiming to remove their doubts, and to strengthen the life of the church in them. The real wants of this class of persons—and their number is by no means small—are more fully met in this way than by public lecturing. It is to be hoped that some good has been accomplished through our instrumentality in this department of missionary labor. I have visited in this work *one hundred and thirty* families. How much good will result from it cannot be known by us, nor does it concern us to know. All the good that is done in the earth is from the Lord alone. He alone does it. It is our high duty and privilege to be the organs or instrumentalities through which the Divine good and truth may be imparted to others.

The circulation of books containing the truths of the New Jerusalem is another part of missionary labor that has been attended to. The state of the country, and the excitement of the public mind consequent upon a state of civil war, have prevented the accomplishment of as much as might seem desirable. But something has been done. The following books have been sold:—

Celestial Dawn	64
New Age	24
Noble's Appeal	4
Death and Life	3
Ten Chapters on Marriage	1
Divine Love and Wisdom	1
New Jerusalem and its Heavenly Doctrines	1
Divine Providence	2
Heaven and Hell	8
Conjugal Love	1
Four Leading Doctrines	3
Compendium and Life of Swedenborg	2
True Christian Religion	3
Apocalypse Revealed	2

The press sustains a most important relation to the spread of the New Dispensation, and the spread of books and tracts is a work, the value of which we are in no danger of over-estimating.

There is much to encourage the friends of the New Church in the present state of things in the Christian world. Old things are passing away. The older systems of religious doctrine are undergoing gradual but essential modifications. Many ministers of other churches have been found, who have received some of the leading doctrines of the New Jerusalem. Their number will constantly increase. One thing is certain,—the old dogmas have but a slight hold upon the popular mind. Those who have been blessed with the higher light of the New Age should seize the auspicious moment to sow in the prepared soil the seed of a richer harvest. There should be personal effort by each member of the church and receiver of the Heavenly Doctrines, within the area of their acquaintance and influence. I have long felt the importance of this, and would affectionately and humbly urge it upon the attention of all the members of the church. Much has already been done by some isolated receivers in this way. In their respective localities they have been centres of illumination. Every one should also be induced to contribute regularly and according to his ability to the support of the missionary work, and to sustain this great use of the church. We should cultivate a higher spiritual life, and the attainment of a closer union with Christ our only Lord. This will certainly extend itself around, noiselessly it may be, but most surely. Silent forces are the most powerful. Two of the most potent forces in nature are light and heat. Yet they are noiseless in their operation. Before their silent action the snows of winter disappear; myriads of living germs spring forth; the winds are moved, and the ocean stirred in its depths; and the tall trees of the forest are lifted toward heaven. So truth and love operate in the realm of mind,—in the moral and spiritual world. Let each believer cultivate the field around him, where Providence has fixed the bounds of his habitation. The labors of your missionary may be like the agriculturist, who runs over a large extent of surface, and gathers but a meagre crop; while the man who concentrates his labor upon a few acres, rendered fertile by his genius and toil, gathers a richer harvest.

I have labored within the bounds of the Association, taking out the time spent at home, a little over *four* months. I send with this my financial account.

Respectfully submitted,
W. F. EVANS.

Financial Report of the Missionary and Colporter.

Money received from	Elijah Jenkins	\$5 00
"	" " Miss Jenkins (for Convention)	5 00
"	" " H. C. Thacher	5 00
"	" " Rev. J. P. Perry	8 00
"	" " Nathaniel Livermore (\$5.00 for publishing <i>Messenger and Magazine</i>)	10 00
"	" " Trumbull Bull	5 00
"	" " four children of Apollos E. Howard	1 00
Total		\$39 00

of which \$10.00 belongs to the Convention, and \$29.00 is credited to the Association.

